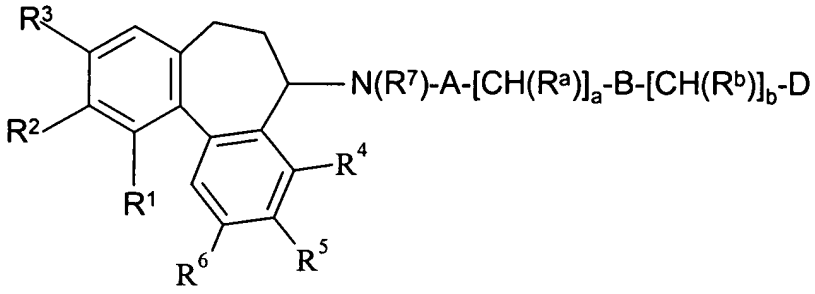
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-17 and replace them with the following claims:

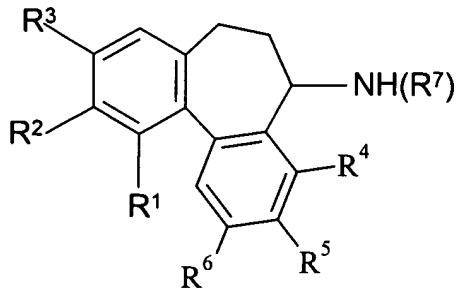
Claim 18 (new): A process for preparing a compound of formula (I):



(I)

or a compound of the formula (I) wherein at least 1 functional group is protected, comprising:

a) reacting a compound of formula (X)



(X)

with a compound of formula (XI):

$$L^1 - A - [CH(R^a)]_a\text{-}B\text{-}[CH\ R^b)]_b\text{-}D$$

(XI)

wherein L^1 is a leaving group; or

b) converting one compound of the formula (I) into another compound of the formula (I); or

c) when a phosphoryloxy group is desired, reacting the corresponding hydroxy compound with a phosphoramidite,

wherein any functional groups are optionally protected; and

thereafter, if necessary:

i) converting a compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I);

ii) removing any protecting groups;

iii) forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or pro-drug thereof,

wherein:

R^1, **R^2** and **R^3** are each independently hydroxy, phosphoryloxy ($-OPO_3H_2$), C_{1-4}alkoxy or an in vivo hydrolysable ester of hydroxy, with the proviso that at least 2 of R^1, R^2 and R^3 are C_{1-4}alkoxy;

A is -CO-, -C(O)O-, $-CON(R^8)$-, $-SO_2$- or $-SO_2N(R^8)$- (wherein **R^8** is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{1-3}alkyl, aminoC_{1-3}alkyl or hydroxyC_{1-3}alkyl);

a is an integer from 1 to 4 inclusive;

R^a and **R^b** are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy and amino;

B is -O-, -CO-, $-N(R^9)CO$-, $-CON(R^9)$-, -C(O)O-, $-N(R^9)$-, $-N(R^9)C(O)O$-, $-N(R^9)CON(R^{10})$-, $-N(R^9)SO_2$-, $-SO_2N(R^9)$- or a direct single bond (wherein **R^9** and **R^{10}** are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{1-3}alkyl, aminoC_{1-3}alkyl and hydroxyC_{1-3}alkyl);

b is 0 or an integer from 1 to 4 inclusive, (provided that when b is 0, B is a single direct bond);

D is carboxy, sulpho, tetrazolyl, imidazolyl, phosphoryloxy, hydroxy, amino, N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, N,N-di(C_{1-3}alkyl)amino or of the formula $-Y^1-(CH_2)_cR^{11}$ or $-NHCH(R^{12})COOH$; (wherein **Y^1** is a direct single bond, -O-, -C(O)-, $-N(R^{13})$-, $-N(R^{13})C(O)$- or $-C(O)N(R^{13})$- (wherein **R^{13}** is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl, aminoC_{2-3}alkyl or hydroxyC_{2-3}alkyl); **c** is 0 or an integer from 1 to 4 inclusive; **R^{11}** is a 5-6-

membered saturated heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) containing 1 or 2 ring heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, or a 5-6-membered unsaturated or partially unsaturated heteroaryl group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) containing 1 or 2 ring heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group or heteroaryl group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from:

oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkanoyl, carbamoyl, N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N-di-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, hydroxyC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, cyanoC_{1-3}alkyl, carbamoylC_{1-3}alkyl, carboxyC_{1-4}alkyl, aminoC_{1-4}alkyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylaminoC_{1-4}alkyl, di-N,N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl and R^{14} (wherein $\mathbf{R^{14}}$ is a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) containing 1 or 2 ring heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents selected from:

oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-4}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl and C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl);

$\mathbf{R^{12}}$ is an amino acid side chain;

$\mathbf{R^5}$ is C_{1-4}alkoxy;

$\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are each independently selected from: hydrogen, fluoro, nitro, amino, N-C_{1-4}alkylamino, N,N-di-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, hydroxy, C_{1-4}alkoxy and C_{1-4}alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^7}$ is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{1-3}alkyl, aminoC_{1-3}alkyl or hydroxyC_{1-3}alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or pro-drug thereof.

Claim 19 (new): The process according to claim 18 wherein $\mathbf{R^1}$, $\mathbf{R^2}$ and $\mathbf{R^3}$ are all methoxy.

Claim 20 (new): The process according to claim 18 wherein:

$\mathbf{R^1}$, $\mathbf{R^2}$, and $\mathbf{R^3}$ are all C_{1-4}alkoxy;

$\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, C_{1-3} alkoxy, and C_{1-3}alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^5}$ is methoxy;

A is -CO-, -C(O)O- or -CONH-;

a is 1, 2 or 3;

B is -CO-, -NHCO-, -CONH, -C(O)O-, -NH-, -NHC(O)O-, NHCONH- or a single direct bond;

b is 0, 1 or 2;

D is carboxy, sulpho, phosphoryloxy, hydroxy, amino, N-C_{1-4} alkylamino, N,N-di(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino or of the formula $-Y^1(CH_2)_cR^{11}$ (wherein $\mathbf{Y^1}$ is -NHC(O)- or -C(O)NH-; **c** is 1 or 2; $\mathbf{R^{11}}$ is a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group (linked via nitrogen) containing 1 or 2 ring heteroatoms, selected independently from O and N, which heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from:

C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4}alkanoyl, carbamoyl, cyanoC_{1-3}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-3}alkyl, carboxyC_{1-3}alkyl and aminoC_{1-3}alkyl);

$\mathbf{R^7}$ is hydrogen;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, solvate or pro-drug thereof.

Claim 21(new): The process according to claim 18

wherein:

$\mathbf{R^1}$, $\mathbf{R^2}$, and $\mathbf{R^3}$ are all methoxy;

$\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, methoxy and methyl;

$\mathbf{R^5}$ is methoxy;

A is -CO-, -C(O)O- or -CONH-;

a is 2 or 3;

B is -CO-, -NHCO-, -CONH or a single direct bond;

b is 0 or 1;

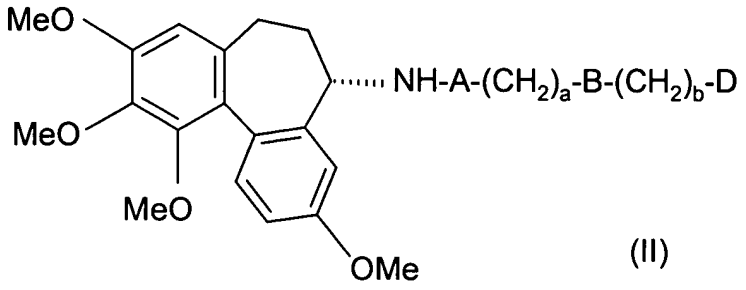
D is carboxy, phosphoryloxy, hydroxy, amino, N-C_{1-4} alkylamino, N,N-di(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino or of the formula $-Y^1(CH_2)_cR^{11}$ (wherein $\mathbf{Y^1}$ is -NHC(O)- or -C(O)NH-; **c** is 1 or 2; $\mathbf{R^{11}}$ is piperazinyl, morpholinyl or piperidinyl, each of which is linked via a ring nitrogen atom and each ring is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents selected from:

C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkanoyl, carbamoyl, cyanoC_{1-3}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-3}alkyl, carboxyC_{1-3}alkyl and aminoC_{1-3}alkyl);

$\mathbf{R^7}$ is hydrogen;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, solvate or pro-drug thereof.

Claim 22 (new): The process according to claim 18 wherein the compound prepared is of formula (II):



(II)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or prodrug thereof.

Claim 23 (new): The process according to claim 22

wherein:

A is -CO-, -C(O)O- or -CONH-;

a is 2 or 3;

B is -CO-, -NHCO-, -CONH or a single direct bond;

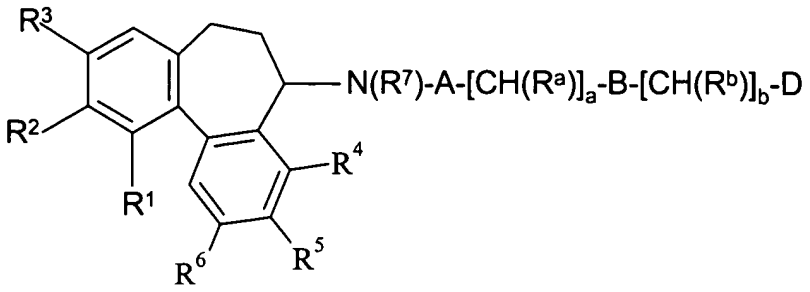
b is 0 or 1;

D is carboxy, phosphoryloxy, hydroxy, amino, N-C_{1-4} alkylamino, N,N-di(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino or of the formula $-Y^1(CH_2)_cR^{11}$ (wherein $\mathbf{Y^1}$ is -NHC(O)- or -C(O)NH-; **c** is 1 or 2; $\mathbf{R^{11}}$ is piperazinyl, morpholinyl or piperidinyl, each of which is linked via a ring nitrogen atom and each ring is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents selected from:

C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkanoyl, carbamoyl, cyanoC_{1-3}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-3}alkyl, carboxyC_{1-3}alkyl and aminoC_{1-3}alkyl);

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or prodrug thereof.

Claim 24 (new): The process according to claim 18 wherein the compound prepared is of formula (III):



(III)

wherein:

R^1, **R^2** and **R^3** are each independently hydroxy, phosphoryloxy ($-OPO_3H_2$), C_{1-4}alkoxy or an in vivo hydrolysable ester of hydroxy, with the proviso that at least 2 of R^1, R^2 and R^3 are C_{1-4}alkoxy;

A is -CO-, -C(O)O-, $-CON(R^8)$-, $-SO_2$- or $-SO_2N(R^8)$- (wherein **R^8** is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl, aminoC_{2-3}alkyl or hydroxyC_{2-3}alkyl);

a is an integer from 1 to 4 inclusive;

R^a and **R^b** are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy and amino;

B is -O-, -CO-, $-N(R^9)CO$-, $-CON(R^9)$-, -C(O)O-, $-N(R^9)$-, $-N(R^9)C(O)O$-, $-N(R^9)CON(R^{10})$-, $-N(R^9)SO_2$-, $-SO_2N(R^9)$- or a direct single bond (wherein **R^9** and **R^{10}** are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl, aminoC_{2-3}alkyl and hydroxyC_{2-3}alkyl);

b is 0 or an integer from 1 to 4 inclusive;

D is a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) containing 1 or 2 ring heteroatoms, selected independently from O and N, which heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from:

oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkanoyl, carbamoyl, N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N-di-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, hydroxyC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, cyanoC_{1-3}alkyl, carbamoylC_{1-3}alkyl, carboxyC_{1-4}alkyl, aminoC_{1-4}alkyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylaminoC_{1-4}alkyl, di-N,N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl and R^{14} (wherein **R^{14}** is a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group (linked via carbon

or nitrogen) containing 1 or 2 ring heteroatoms, selected independently from O and N, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents selected from:

oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-4}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl and C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl);

$\mathbf{R^5}$ is C_{1-4}alkoxy;

$\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are each independently selected from:

hydrogen, halogeno, nitro, amino, N-C_{1-4}alkylamino, N,N-di-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, hydroxy, C_{1-4}alkoxy and C_{1-4}alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^7}$ is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{1-3}alkyl, aminoC_{1-3}alkyl or hydroxyC_{1-3}alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or pro-drug thereof.

Claim 25 (new): The process according to claim 24

wherein:

$\mathbf{R^1}$, $\mathbf{R^2}$, and $\mathbf{R^3}$ are all C_{1-4}alkoxy;

$\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, C_{1-3} alkoxy, and C_{1-3}alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^5}$ is methoxy;

A is -CO-, -C(O)O- or -CONH-;

a is 1, 2 or 3;

B is -CO-, -NHCO-, -CONH, -C(O)O-, -NH-, -NHC(O)O-, NHCONH- or a single direct bond;

b is 0, 1 or 2;

D is piperazinyl or morpholinyl or piperidinyl, each ring being optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkanoyl, carbamoyl, cyanoC_{1-3}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-3}alkyl, carboxyC_{1-3}alkyl and aminoC_{1-3}alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^7}$ is hydrogen;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, solvate or pro-drug thereof.

Claim 26 (new): The process according to claim 24

wherein:

R^1, R^2, and R^3 are all methoxy;

R^4 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, methoxy and methyl;

R^5 is methoxy;

A is -CO-, -C(O)O- or -CONH-;

a is 2 or 3;

B is -CO-, -NHCO-, -CONH or a single direct bond;

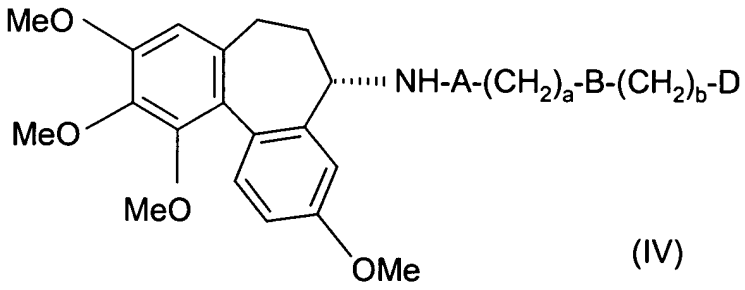
b is 0 or 1;

D is piperazino or morpholino, each ring being optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents selected from methyl, ethyl, acetyl, propionyl, carbamoyl and 2-hydroxyethyl;

R^7 is hydrogen;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, solvate or pro-drug thereof.

Claim 27 (new): The process according to claim 24 wherein the compound prepared is of formula (IV):



(IV)

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, solvate or pro-drug thereof.

Claim 28 (new): The process according to claim 27

wherein:

A is -CO-, -C(O)O- or -CONH-;

a is 2 or 3;

B is -CO-, -NHCO-, -CONH or a single direct bond;

b is 0 or 1;

D is piperazino or morpholino, each ring being optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents selected from methyl, ethyl, acetyl, propionyl, carbamoyl and 2-hydroxyethyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or pro-drug thereof.

Claim 29 (new): The process according to claim 27

wherein:

A is -CO-, -C(O)O- or -CONH-;

a is 2 or 3;

B is -CO-, -NHCO-, -CONH or a single direct bond;

b is 0 or 1;

D is morpholino, 4-methylpiperazin-1-yl or 4-acetylpiperazin-1-yl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or pro-drug thereof.

Claim 30 (new): The process according to claim 18 wherein the compound prepared is selected from:

N-[(5S) -3,9,10,11-tetramethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,c]cyclohepten-5-yl]-2-[2-aminoacetylamino]acetamide;

4-oxo-4-[(5S)-3,9,10,11-tetramethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,c]cyclohepten-5-yl]amino]butyl disodium phosphate;

N-{N-[2-(imidazol-1-yl)ethyl]carbamoyl}-5(S)-3,9,10,11-tetramethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,c]cyclohepten-5-ylamine; and

2-{N-[(5S)-3,9,10,11-tetramethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,c]cyclohepten-5-yl]carbamoyloxy}ethyl disodium phosphate;

2-morpholinoethyl *N*-[(5S)-3,9,10,11-tetramethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-dibenzo [a,c]cyclohepten-5-yl]carbamate;

3-(1-methylpiperazin-4-yl)propyl N-[(5S)-3,9,10,11-tetramethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo [a,c]cyclohepten-5-yl] carbamate;

N-[(5S)-3,9,10,11-tetramethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,c]cyclohepten-5-yl]-2-[2-aminoacetylamino]acetamide;

2-(1-acetylpiperazin-4-yl)ethyl-N-[(5S)-3,9,10,11-tetramethoxy-6-7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,c]cyclohepten-5-yl] carbamate;

N-[(5S)-3,9,10,11-tetramethoxy-6-7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,c]cyclohepten-5-yl]-4-(1-methylpiperazin-4-yl)-4-oxobutan-l-amide;

4-oxo-4-[(5S)-3,9,10,11-tetramethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,c]cyclohepten-5-yl]amino]butyl disodium phosphate;

N-{N-[2-(imidazol-1-yl)ethyl]carbamoyl}-5(S)-3,9,10,11-tetramethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,c]cyclohepten-5-ylamine;

3-(1-acetylpiperazin-4-yl) propyl-N-[(5S)-3,9,10,11-tetramethoxy-6-7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,c]cyclohepten-5-yl]carbamate;

N-l-[(5S)-3,9,10,11-tetramethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,c]cyclohepten-5-yl]carbamoyloxy]ethyl disodiumphosphate;

4-morpholino-4-oxobutyl-N-[(5S)-3,9,10, 11-tetramethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo [a-c]cyclohepten-5-yl]carbamate; and

4-(1-methylpiperazin-4-yl)-4-oxobutyl-N-[(5S)-3,9,10, 11-tetramethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,c]cylcohepten-5-yl]carbamate;

and pharmaceutically-acceptable salts, solvates or pro-drugs thereof.